

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): An optical modulator, comprising:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a flexible light transmitting member, disposed so as to face with a boundary surface of said optical waveguide and has a gap between the flexible light transmitting member and the boundary surface of [[he]] the optical waveguide; and

a modulation device for bringing said flexible light transmitting member into contact with the boundary surface of the optical waveguide.
2. (Original): The optical modulator according to claim 1, wherein said flexible light transmitting member is formed of a transparent material having electrical conductivity, and said modulation device brings the light transmitting member into contact with the boundary surface of the optical waveguide by using static electricity.
3. (Original): The optical modulator according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of light transmitting members which are said flexible light transmitting member are arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide, and said modulation device is set in correspondence with each of said plurality of light transmitting members.

4. (Original): An exposure head, comprising:

an optical modulator which includes:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a plurality of flexible light transmitting members, disposed so as to face with a boundary surface of said optical waveguide and has a gap between the flexible members and the boundary surface of the optical waveguide, said plurality of flexible light transmitting members being arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide; and

a modulation device for bringing said plurality of flexible light transmitting members into contact with the boundary surface of the optical waveguide, said modulation device being set in correspondence with each of said plurality of flexible light transmitting members; and

a light source allowing the light to enter into the first end surface on a light incidence side of the optical waveguide.

5. (Original): The exposure head according to claim 4, wherein said light source emits the light diffusing in an arrangement direction of said plurality of flexible light transmitting members, and each of said plurality of flexible light transmitting members is disposed so as to have a predetermined distance from the first end surface of the light incidence side of the optical waveguide with respect to the traveling direction of the light.

6. (Original): The exposure head according to claim 4, wherein said light emitted from said light source is directly entered to the first end surface on the light incidence side of said optical waveguide.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/987,650

7. (Original): The exposure head according to claim 4, further comprising:
a lens disposed between a light emission portion of said light source and the first end surface on the light incidence side of said optical waveguide.
8. (Original): The exposure head according to claim 4, further comprising:
an imaging optical system focusing the light emitted from the optical waveguide at a predetermined position.
9. (Original): An image recording apparatus, comprising:
an exposure head; and
a scanning device for relatively moving a photosensitive material and said exposure head, said exposure head having:
an optical modulator which includes:
an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;
a plurality of flexible light transmitting members, disposed so as to face with a boundary surface of said optical waveguide and has a gap between the flexible members and the boundary surface of the optical waveguide, said plurality of flexible light transmitting members being arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide;
and
a modulation device for bringing said plurality of flexible light transmitting members into contact with the boundary surface of the optical waveguide, said modulation device being set in correspondence with each of said plurality of flexible light transmitting members; and

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/987,650

a light source allowing the light to enter into the first end surface on a light incidence side of the optical waveguide.

10. (Withdrawn): An optical modulator, comprising:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a modulation member having a light interference film, disposed such that a surface of the light interference film faces the first end surface on a light emission side of the optical waveguide; and

a driving device for changing an angle of said modulation member with respect to the light emitted from said optical waveguide.

11. (Withdrawn): The optical modulator according to claim 10, wherein said driving device changes the angle of the modulation member by using static electricity.

12. (Withdrawn): The optical modulator according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of modulation members which are said modulation member are arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide, and said driving device is set in correspondence with each of said plurality of modulation members.

13. (Withdrawn): An exposure head, comprising:

an optical modulator which includes:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a plurality of modulation members each having a light interference film, disposed so that a surface of the light interference film faces the first end surface on a light emission side of the

optical waveguide, said plurality of modulation members being arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide; and

a driving device for changing each of the angles of said plurality of modulation members with respect to the light emitted from the optical waveguide, said driving device being set in correspondence with each of said plurality of modulation members; and

a light source allowing the light to enter into the first end surface on a light incidence side of the optical waveguide.

14. (Withdrawn): The exposure head according to claim 13, wherein said light source emits the light diffusing in an arrangement direction of said plurality of modulation members, and said optical waveguide has a length in a direction of light transmission so that an amount of the light entered to each of said plurality of modulation members becomes uniform in correspondence with the light diffusion.

15. (Withdrawn): The exposure head according to claim 13, wherein said light emitted from said light source is directly made incident upon the first end surface on the light incidence side of said optical waveguide.

16. (Withdrawn): The exposure head according to claim 13, further comprising:
a lens disposed between a light emission portion of said light source and the first end surface on the light incidence side of said optical waveguide.

17. (Withdrawn): The exposure head according to claim 13, further comprising:
an imaging optical system for focusing the light emitted from the optical waveguide at a predetermined position.

18. (Withdrawn): An image recording apparatus comprising:

an exposure head; and

a scanning device for making a photosensitive material and said exposure head move relatively,

said exposure head having:

an optical modulator which includes:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a plurality of modulation members each having a light interference film, disposed so that a surface of the light interference film faces the first end surface on a light emission side of the optical waveguide; said plurality of modulation members being arranged in a direction orthogonal to a traveling direction of the light in the optical waveguide; and

driving device for changing each of the angles of said plurality of modulation members with respect to the light emitted from the waveguide, said driving device being set in correspondence with each of said plurality of modulation members; and

a light source allowing the light to enter into the first end surface on a light incidence side of the optical waveguide.

19. (New): The modulator of claim 1, wherein the boundary surface of the optical waveguide is on a surface different from the first end surface and the second end surface.

20. (New): An optical modulator, comprising:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a light adjustment members, disposed to face at least one of: a boundary surface of the optical waveguide and the second end surface of the optical waveguide, wherein the boundary surface is disposed on a face of the optical waveguide other than the first and second end surfaces; and

a driving device to change a configuration of the light adjustment member to modulate light propagated by the waveguide.

21. (New): An exposure head, comprising:

an optical modulator which includes:

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a plurality of light adjustment members, disposed to face at least one of: a boundary surface of the optical waveguide and the second end surface of the optical waveguide, wherein the boundary surface is disposed on a face of the optical waveguide other than the first and second end surfaces; and

a driving device to change a configuration of the light adjustment member to modulate light propagated by the waveguide.

22. (New): An image recording apparatus, comprising:

an exposure head; and

a scanning device for relatively moving a photosensitive material and said exposure head, said exposure head having:

an optical modulator which includes:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 09/987,650

an optical waveguide for receiving light entered from a first end surface thereof and for emitting the light from a second end surface opposing to the first end surface;

a plurality of light adjustment members, disposed to face at least one of: a boundary surface of the optical waveguide the second end surface of the optical waveguide, wherein the boundary surface is disposed on a face of the optical waveguide other than the first and second end surfaces; and

a driving device to change a configuration of the light adjustment member to modulate light propagated by the waveguide.

23. (New): The optical modulator of claim 19, wherein the second end surface of the waveguide is aligned with an edge of the flexible light transmitting member.

24. (New): The optical modulator of claim 23, comprising a plurality of the flexible light transmitting members, each light transmitting member having an edge aligned with the second end surface of the waveguide.